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ABSTRACT

The study reported in this paper examined: (1) how the expectations of sexual relationships relate to the sexual experiences which male and female adolescents gather in their relationships with the opposite sex; and (2) whether male and female adolescents differ in their sexual behavior, their expectations for sexual relationships, their communication on sexual matters, and how they handle the risks of an Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) infection. The study also looked at whether the attitudes of male and female adolescents change when they engage in sexual intercourse. Male (N=166) and female (N=167) West German adolescents in grades 9 through 11 were matched in terms of age, education, and social class. All subjects completed a written questionnaire on sexuality and AIDS. For female adolescents, love, trust and understanding, tenderness and considerateness, sexual fidelity and sexual compatibility were more important than for male adolescents. Male adolescents were more interested in the good looks of their female partners. These gender differences remained stable when subgroups of adolescents who had a steady boyfriend or girlfriend and/or who had had intercourse were examined. In addition, females tended to talk more about sexuality and AIDS than did males. The results are discussed in terms of gender differences in negotiating sexual issues, such as the use of condoms in protection against AIDS. (Author/NB)

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The first few times.

Similarities and differences in sexual behaviors and attitudes of West German male and female adolescents

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Abstract

Taking gender differences in adult heterosexual relations and in pre-adolescent friendships with same-sex friends as points of departure, the paper traces the disappearance of gender differences in sexual experiences (age at first intercourse, number of sexual partners) among West German adolescents. Although male and female adolesecents have converged on these parameters, gender differences in attitudes towards sexual relationships remain. For female adolescents (N = 167), who were a match in terms of age, education and social class to male adolescents (N = 166), love, trust and understanding, tenderness and considerateness, sexual fidelity and sexual compatibility were more important than for male adolescents. They, in turn, were more interested in the good looks of their female partners. These gender differences remained stable when subgroups of adolescents who had a steady boyfriend or girlfriend and/or had had intercourse were examined. In addition, females tended to talk more about sexuality and Aids than males. The results are discussed in terms of gender differences in negotiating sexual issues, such as the use of condoms in protection against Aids.

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1. Introduction

According to developmental psychologists the development of intimate and sexual partnerships is one of the most important tasks of adolescence (Oerter 1987, p.276). It is one of the most difficult tasks, since it means bringing three rather different and sometimes conflicting needs into harmony, that is: "the need for personal security, that is freedom from anxiety; the need for intimacy, that is collaboration [mutual closeness and appreciation] with at least one other person; and the need for lustful satisfaction which is connected with genital activity in pursuit of the orgasm" (Sullivan 1953, p. 264). Further difficulties arise from the expectation dominant in our culture that all three needs should be met by the same person, who in addition should be a member of the other sex (von Salisch 1990). Adolescents find themselves confronted with demands both to integrate their growing sexual impulses and also to develop emotional closeness and intimacy to members of the opposite sex, with whom they have had rather little to do in the past apart from superficial or antagonistic contacts in middle childhood (Oswald, Krappmann, Chowdhuri & von Salisch 1987). Male and female adolescents may have problems in negotiating their sexual and interpersonal needs within a partnership because in general the two sexes have made different experiences with interpersonal intimacy in close relationships (Chowdorow 1978).

From the start of elementary school girls and boys often have had different experiences of friendships with same-sex peers. Whereas most pre-adolescent boys see common interests or activities as the most important characteristic of such a friendship, for most girls in this age-group the exchange of intimacies with their "best friend" takes center stage (Smollar & Youniss 1982). Among slightly older adolescents females are also considerably more inclined to self-disclosure towards their female friends than males are towards their male friends (Furman & Buhrmeister 1985; Hunter & Youniss 1982). Only 30% of male adolescents declared a need to speak openly about personal issues with the best friend of the same sex, compared with 60% of females (Youniss & Smollar 1985, p.97). Since on average male and female adolescents have different experience of intimacy in relationships with members of the *same* sex, it is to be expected that they will give different priority to interpersonal values such as understanding and trusting, or tenderness and considerateness in relationships with partners of the other sex.

These differences continue beyond adolescence. Studies in Social Psychology demonstrate that grown men and women also hold expectations concerning their partners and their partnership which only partially overlap. Thus in the sixties male college students valued the good looks and the adaptability of their female partner, whereas female students expected accomplishment and assertiveness from their male partner (cited after Deaux 1976, Chap. 11). These priorities for the choice of partner correspond to traditional ideas about gender roles, according to which the man takes on the role of provider and the woman is responsible for the (emotional) reproduction of the partner and the family. Gender differences in the sense that young men generally see love as something to which they turn in play or passion, whereas young women place more

emphasis on friendship or pragmatic aspects in their view of love, can be found even today (Hendrick, Hendrick, Foote & Slapion-Foote 1984, Hendrick & Hendrick 1987).

In the past differing expectations placed on the partner corresponded with differences in sexual behavior between young men and women. Numerous studies from the sixties and seventies agree that female adolescents and young adults had had sexual intercourse with a significantly smaller number of partners than their male peers (Clement 1986, p.110; Sigusch & Schmidt 1973; Schmid-Tannwald & Urdze 1983, p.180. own calculations). Since the mid-eighties the tendencies of both sexes to change partners has more or less converged, and male and female adolescents and young adults now report about the same number of partners (Clement 1986, p.110; Neubauer 1987, A35; Schmidt, Klusmann, Renter & Radizi 1989, own calculations). This study links the areas of sexuality and interpersonal intimacy by questioning the same subjects on both areas. In particular it examines whether the convergence of sexual behavior of young men and women has gone along with a convergence of differences in their values for sexual relationships.

When it comes to trying out gender roles the adolescent peer group is of prime importance (Erikson 1970) - all the more so today because the "normal" steps in the development of partnership and sexuality are overshadowed by concerns engendered by the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) (von Salisch & Oswald 1989). The communication in the peer group about sexual matters could help to master these developmental steps while at the same time helping to prevent Aids, since the norms of prevention on which the individuals will orient their behavior are established in the peer group (Fisher 1988). The use of condoms in sexual intercourse also presupposes that agreement has been reached with the partner about this in advance (Catania, Coates, Greenblatt, Dolcini et al. 1989). This study therefore explores the gender differences in the willingness to talk about topics concerning sexuality and Aids.

The central questions of this study are:

How do the expectations of sexual relationships relate to the sexual experiences which male and female adolescents gather in their relationships with the opposite sex?

(1) Do male and female adolescents differ in their sexual behavior?
(2) Do male and female adolescents differ in their expectations for sexual relationships?
(3) Do the attitudes of the male and female adolescents change when they engage of partnership and/or sexual intercourse?
(4) Do male and female adolescents differ in their communication on sexual matters and in the way they handle the risks of an Aids infection?

2. Methods

This study compares the answers given by 167 female and 166 male adolescents in a written questionnaire on "Sexuality and Aids". The subjects were the subgroup of German pupils from a sample of 425 9-11 grade pupils from general secondary schools in West Berlin in summer 1988.[1] The 92 pupils of other nationalities, mostly sons and daughters of immigrant workers from Turkey, were excluded from the analysis for this paper, since their attitudes to the relationship between the sexes are in many cases very different from those of young Germans due to their cultural background (Schiffauer 1983). We are only concerned here with a comparison of male and female adolescents who listed their nationality as "German" in the questionnaire.[2] Details of the sample and methods are described in greater detail elsewhere (von Salisch & Oswald 1989).

The questionnaire: this additional questionnaire covered the following topics: integration into the peer group, communication on sexual issues, sexual behavior, contraception and communication and knowledge about as well as attitudes towards Aids. In addition data were gathered about the students' age, gender, nationality, school-type, school performance and their parents' occupation(s). Answers to all questions were fixed. They were to be given either by choosing from graduated scales or from yes/no alternatives.

The sample: N = 333: 30% of the subjects were 15 years-old or younger, 32% were 16 years-old and 38% were 17 or older. The age distribution of the two sexes was balanced (Chi^2 n.s.). The male and female sub-samples showed no difference in terms of those living with parents and those living alone, or in terms of the SES of the family (both Chi^2 n.s.). 15% of the male and 13% of the female subjects attended the "Hauptschule" (a low status secondary school ending after grade 10), 37% of the young males and 40% of the young females went to the "Gesamtschule" (a kind of comprehensive highschool), and 48% and 47% respectively went to the "Gymnasium" (a grammar school preparing students for the "Abitur" degree, which grants them entry to the university system.[3] These differences were also not significant.

A comparison of these figures with the statistics on the distribution of German 9-11 grade pupils at Berlin schools in October 1987 showed that the group of "Gymnasium" pupils was underrepresented in our sample (only 47% instead of 56%); pupils from the other types of school were correspondingly overrepresented (Chi^2 $(2,N=333) = 9.8$, $p < 0.01$). This may well have led to a slight overrepresentation of sexually experienced adolescents. However, since there was hardly any difference between the sexes in terms of sexual experience and no difference in their socio-demographic parameters (age, school education, SES) this is of little significance for the question of gender differences treated in this paper.

1 These 425 subjects are part of a sample of 1526 pupils studied in the evaluation of the Aids Information ogram of the Berlin Senate (Lukas/ Oswald 1988). Since it is not allowed to ask questions about private matters in schools we offered a payment for answering a further questionnaire at the Institute. A number of questions were identical in the two questionnaires, but the suspicion that the subjects of the sub-sample would give particularly liberal or socially-desirable answers ("Aids volunteer bias") was not confirmed (von Salisch & Oswald 1989).

2 The comparison of male Berlin adolescents of German and Turkish nationality was conducted separately (von Salisch 1990). Cultural differences between female adolescents were not analyzed as it was not possible to question enough young Turkish women.

3 See Oswald et al. 1988 for details of the German school system.

3. Sexual experience of male and female adolescents

In general male and female adolescents do not seem to differ in their sexual development: more than 90% of the young Germans of both sexes had kissed a member of the opposite sex[4]. 71% of the young men had caressed a female breast, 77% of the young women had allowed themselves to be caressed. The active role in genital petting had been played by 58% of the male and 53% of the female subjects at least once; the passiver role had been played by 56% of the young men and 57% of the young women. 34% of the male and 37% of the females had slept with a partner of the opposite sex. These findings indicate that the milestones of sexual development of both sexes are reached in much the same sequence and frequency (all Chi^2 with $p > 0.18$). This is in accord with the results of the representative survey by Schmid-Tannwald & Urdze (1983).

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Insert Table 1 about here

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Asked why they had not yet had sexual intercourse, over two-thirds of the hitherto abstinent adolescents of both sexes gave as a reason that they had not yet met the right partner. More than twice as many female subjects mentioned that they were too young for sexual intercourse ($p < 0.001$). "No interest" and "fear of pregnancy" were also cited significantly more often by females than by males ($p < 0.05$). Young males, on the other hand, more frequently gave shyness as a reason ($p < 0.05$). Table 2 shows these differences between the sexes.

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Insert Table 2 about here

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As would be expected the proportion of adolescents who had had sexual intercourse rose with age. The increase was similar for both sexes. Of the subjects up to and including 15 years of age 21% of males and females had engaged in coitus at least once, for the 16 year-olds it was 49% of the young males and 37% of the young females, and for the subjects who were 17 or older it was 46% and 45% respectively. The differences between the sexes were not statistically significant. Whereas investigations up till the mid-eighties were in agreement that female adolescents generally began to be sexually active at a younger age than their male age-mates (Schmid-Tannwald & Urdze 1983; Clement 1986) this difference seems to have disappeared in German cities by 1988; young males have "caught up" in the meantime, and in our Berlin study they begin to experience coitus with opposite- sex partners at about the same age as females. Schmidt et al. (1989) reach the same conclusion for a group of adolescents in Hamburg.

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Insert Table 3 about here

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The behavior of males and females also seems to converge when we look at the number of partners with whom they have had sexual intercourse. Table 3 shows that the majority of adolescents who had experienced coitus,

4 None of the subjects said they were homosexual.

namely 52% of the male subjects and 72% of the female subjects had previously slept with only one or two partners. 31% of the males and 16% of the females reported four or more sexual partners. The statistical significance of this difference cannot be confirmed ($p < 0.13$). A comparison of means can help to decide whether the reported difference is valid overall. On the average, young males had slept with 3.7 girls or women, females with 2.4 boys or men ($t = 1.83$, $p < 0.10$). The standard deviations (males 4.74, females 2.30) indicate that there are large individual differences in the frequency at which partners are changed. This was above all true for young males.

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Insert Table 4 about here

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Are the reported sexual activities carried out within an established relationship or outside one? When answering the questionnaire 43% of the young females had a steady boy-friend and 25% of the young males a steady girl-friend ($p < 0.001$). Both males and females with experience of coitus were significantly more often engaged in a steady relationship than other members of their sex without such experience (cf. Tab. 4). Nearly three-quarters of the young females with experience of coitus said they had a steady relationship, compared with only 42% of the young males with experience of coitus. This finding suggests that relatively more young females gain their sexual experience in an established relationship.[5]

4. Gender differences in attitudes towards sexual relationships

All adolescents were asked what they thought was important for a sexual relationship between two people. Eight items were listed which they could check as being "very important", "important", "less important", or "unimportant". There were significant differences between the sexes in the evaluation of six of the eight items (see Table 5). The majority of the adolescents of both sexes gave high ratings for understanding and trust, love, tenderness and considerateness. However, significantly more females than males were willing to refer to these attitudes and feelings as "very important" ($p < 0.05$). The young females placed more importance on fidelity in sexual relationships; 68% of them felt sexual fidelity was very important compared with 46% of the males ($p < 0.01$). Sexual compatibility was at the lower end of the scale of importance for both sexes, although more so for young males than young females ($p < 0.05$). Young men found good looks more important: 75% found this "very important" or "important" compared with 31% of the young women ($p < 0.01$).

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Insert Table 5 about here

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Do the differences between the sexes change when adolescents engage in cross-sex partnerships and/or sexual intercourse? Since this study does not follow a longitudinal design it is only possible to answer this question

5 Although no direct questions were asked about sexual activity with a steady girl-friend or boy-friend it can be assumed that many adolescents who have had sexual intercourse will be sexually active with their steady partner. Of course at this age the status of a relationship with a member of opposite sex will be negotiated in the course of the acquaintance, and can be subject to rapid change. An objection could therefore be raised that young females might be more prepared to declare an as yet undefined relationship to be a "steady partnership".

indirectly, that is by examining gender differences in subgroups of adolescents who already have engaged in intercourse and/or relationships. Table 6 pictures these comparisons.

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Insert Table 6 about here

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Both young males and females with steady girl or boy friends respectively, and with experience of coitus rated *sexual fidelity* as more important than their inexperienced and unlinked peers of the same sex. In all three comparisons in Table 6 young women rated sexual fidelity as "very important" significantly more often than their male peers. The difference between the sexes in the evaluation of sexual fidelity thus continued in increasingly intimate relationships. Young males and young females also evaluated *tenderness and considerateness* differently throughout. With increasing experience in partnerships and (genital) sexuality the values of the female and male subjects continued to diverge. Whereas 82% of young males with a steady girl-friend who had not had sexual intercourse found tenderness and considerateness to be very important, only 54% of those with a girl-friend who had had sexual intercourse did so (for the males with girl-friend, comparison of those without coitus experience vs. those with, $p < 0.10$). For young females results went the other way: tenderness and considerateness was more important for those who had had intercourse with their boy-friend. 93% of young women with a boy-friend and experience of coitus found this very important, compared with 76% of those with a friend but no experience of coitus ($p < 0.05$).

5. Communication on sexual matters and the handling of risks of Aids infection

As illustrated in Table 7 young females spoke more often on average about sexual issues than their male peers. On the whole they were better informed about sex and talked more about Aids with friends and classmates of both sexes. Twice as many young females spoke with friends of the same sex about Aids (35% females compared with 17% males). They also raised this topic more frequently in coversations with their boy-friend than males did with their girl-friend. All adolescents spoke less frequently with classmates about Aids, although here too the frequency was significantly higher for females than males (all comparisons with $p < 0.05$).[6] In terms of prevention it is particularly important that female adolescents are more inclined to speak with sexual partners about contraception than their male peers. They also intended to speak "most certainly" about protection against Aids with a new sexual partner ($p < 0.05$). An omnibus-test for all the values reported in Table 7 underlines that the females are significantly more willing to communicate about sexual matters than males (Wilcoxon $T = 1$, $p < 0.01$).

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Insert Table 7 about here

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Male and female adolescents did not differ in general as far as dealing with the risk of an Aids infection was concerned. Level of knowledge about the ways in which Aids could be contracted was the same for both sexes;

6 Subjects who said they had no friend, no girl- or boy-friend and no classmates were excluded from the calculations.

they attached about the same importance to Aids, and 52% (male) and 59% (female) were made to feel insecure by the disease. About the same proportion of those with sexual experience drew personal conclusions; 69% of the young males and 74% of the young females reported increased caution in the choice of new sexual partners. 87% of the males and 81% of the females with experience of coitus had used condoms, but nearly twice as many young males had actually bought condoms than young females (65% vs. 36%, $p < 0.0001$). The protection against Aids provided by condoms therefore lies more in the hands of the male than the female partner.

6. Discussion

If one examines the experiences which adolescents have gathered with sexuality then the differences between sexes which were still apparent a few years ago seem to have largely disappeared. Male and female adolescents begin to gather sexual experience with the opposite sex at much the same age, and the difference in numbers of sexual partners has diminished. This convergent trend is confirmed in other studies published in the last two years (Neubauer 1987; Schmidt et al. 1989)

The sexes show greater differences in the area of sexual attitudes. Asked why they had not yet had sexual intercourse female adolescents said they were too young or had no interest in sex significantly more often than their male peers. Males cited their shyness more frequently. These answers point to the traditional gender role stereotypes, according to which the male partner has to take the initiative in sexual matters, and the female partner has to show a comparative lack of interest. An alternative worthy of consideration is whether the disinterest of young females may be a sign of difficulties in integrating sexual impulses into their personality. Perhaps female adolescents find it comparatively more difficult to integrate their sexual needs into their self-concept and to experience them as part of their own person (Davidson & Haviland 1989).

The finding that 76 % of males and 68% of females without experience of coitus gave as the reason for their abstinence that up till then they had not found the right partner underlines the extent to which sexual experience is embedded in interpersonal relationships. Asked about the things that they found important in a sexual relationship male and female adolescents gave a number of differing evaluations. Although there was a large overlap, on the whole the female subjects attached more importance to interpersonal values such as understanding and trust, love, tenderness and considerateness than their male peers. This result supports the hypothesis that male and female adolescents transfer their differing expectations from pre-adolescent friendships with members of the same sex to relationships with members of the opposite sex in adolescence (Youniss & Smollar 1985; Furman & Buhrmester 1985).

Conversely one could expect that male adolescents would tend to rate the sexual aspects of the relationship higher. The results of this study are ambiguous in this respect. As in the past male adolescents placed relatively more emphasis on attractive looks (cf. Sigusch & Schmidt 1973, p.191; Berscheid & Walster 1978). Eroticism

within the relationship, namely sexual compatibility between the partners, was however rated higher by female subjects, perhaps because they rely more on a responsive partner than their male peers, since for half of them sexual satisfaction is not always achievable (male adolescents 10%; Neubauer 1987, A.37). The interpretation of intensive taped interviews of a subgroup demonstrated more clearly than the quantitative analysis that female adolescents oriented themselves to a relatively greater extent on relational aspects of sexuality (Leisenheimer 1989). Against this interpretation of the results the argument might be advanced that women in general tend to attach more importance to emotional values and that men tend to portray themselves as sexually potent; that is that in presenting themselves the sexes place emphasis on different aspects of their person (Clement 1988).

The different attitudes to sexual relationships in the quantitative analysis are striking when it comes to sexual fidelity. Although female adolescents also change their sexual partner they place more importance on sexual fidelity than their male peers, a fact which has been frequently confirmed over many years (Sigusch & Schmidt 1973, p.183), and in various countries (German Democratic Republic: Starke & Friedrich 1986; United States: Hendrick, Hendrick, Slapion-Foote & Foote 1985). In general male adolescents and young adults have a more permissive attitude towards changing partners in sexual relationships than female adolescents and young adults.

The stricter views on fidelity held by female adolescents corresponded in the past more or less with their behavior - they reported in fact fewer "affairs" than male adolescents (Sigusch & Schmidt 1973, p.188). Today, however, the importance attached to fidelity is explained less well by a reduced tendency to enter into additional sexual relationships (cf. also Böhm & Rohner 1988). What is happening here? Are traditional role stereotypes being reproduced which suggest that females should attach themselves as permanently and exclusively as possible? Can the additional sexual relationships of female adolescents be regarded as a reaction to male partners having "a bit on the side"? Or do girls and women usually "invest" more feelings in their sexual relationships and therefore have to insist more strongly on loyalty than boys and men, who usually see their sexual relationships as being less binding?[7] Obviously various reasons can be advanced in order to explain why most young females still uphold sexual fidelity. Despite all questions one point seems to be clear: the liberalization of sexual standards has advanced further in the behavior of adolescents than in their heads.

Female adolescents communicate more about sexual issues than males, both within the family and the peer group. Aids is a more common topic among female friends and classmates than in the corresponding male groups. The values for conversations with peers of the other sex converge somewhat, but are still clearly higher for adolescent females than males. It can be concluded that Aids is a topic which interests female adolescents more and which is therefore brought up by them more often than by their male peers. More young females would also "most certainly" talk with a new sexual partner about protective measures against Aids than young males. The extent to which this intention is actually put into practice cannot be determined in a study using questionnaires. However it can certainly be seen as positive that almost all adolescents are prepared to accept

7 The significant correlations between sexual fidelity, love, understanding and trust and tenderness and considerateness (r between 0.17 and 0.23, $p < 0.01$) point to a close association between intimacy and sexual fidelity.

the norm that one should discuss Aids protection with a future sexual partner (if possible). The strategy of encouraging the willingness to discuss sexual matters with a partner could be important in restricting the spread of the HIV infection. Whether this conversation revolves around the fear of contracting Aids or around protective measures, talking about it is by all means better than not talking at all.

With the emergence of Aids the condom has again gained in importance . As in the period before the Pill, protective measures are in the hands of the male partner. Qualitative information from taped interviews shows that there is one type of male adolescents who regularly and conscientiously uses condoms. A second type uses condoms if his partner wan s him to, and a third type is not at all prepared to use condoms. Generally, female adolescents spend more thought on the use of condoms, and some report problems in the discussion about using them. Further questions will have to be studied in these in-depth interviews - for example whether the use of condoms can be negotiated with the sexual partner, how this question is dealt with in the acute situation of sexual contact, and whether this problem results - as some suspect - in a shift of power towards the male.

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Table 1: Reasons why adolescents had not had sexual intercourse (frequencies in percent)

Reason	Males (N=106)	Females (N=103)	p
Have not yet met the right partner	76*	68	n.s.
I think I am too young	22	49	<.000
Not interested up till now	9	30	<.000
I am too shy	22	10	<.05
Afraid of infection with the Aids virus	10	14	n.s.
Afraid of pregnancy	7	16	<.05
Afraid of being surprised by the parents	4	2	n.s.
[illegible] girlfriend or boyfriend doesn't want to	7	0	<.01
[illegible]ly interested in same-sex partners	0	0	-

* More than one answer possible

Table 2: Sexual intercourse by age and gender

	Sexual intercourse					
Age	Males		Females		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
15 years	11	19	12	20	23	20
16 years	21	37	21	34	42	36
17 years	25	44	28	46	53	45
N	57	100	61	100	118	100
	p< .001		p< .05		p< .001	

Table 3: Number of sexual partners of sexually experienced male and female adolescents in percent

Number	Males (N=52)	Females (N=61)	Total (N=113)
1 partner	39	48	43
2 partners	13	24	20
3 partners	17	12	14
4 and more partners	31	16	23
	100	100	100

n.s. (p= .13)

Table 4: Gender differences in coitus and steady friendships

	steady boyfriend or girl friend (opposite sex)				
	yes	no	%	N	p
Sexually experienced males	42	58	100	57	p <.0002
Sexually inexperiences males	16	84	100	108	
Sexually experienced females	73	27	100	62	p <.0000
Sexually inexperienced females	26	74	100	105	

* The difference between males and females who have had intercourse was significant as well ($p < .001$).

Table 5: Attitudes towards sexual relationships ("very important" answers in percent).

Question: In your opinion, what is important for a sexual relationship between two people? Please indicate for each of the following items whether you consider it to be very important, important, somewhat unimportant or unimportant

	All (N=333)	Males (N=166)	Females (N=167)	p
Good looks	8	11	5	p<.05*
Common interests	23	26	19	n.s.
Being in love	57	53	61	n.s.
Love	76	70	81	p<.05
Trust & understanding	85	80	91	p<.005
Sexual fidelity	57	46	68	p<.001
Tenderness & considerateness	75	63	87	p<.001
Sexual compatibility	27	21	33	p<.05

* Chi2 "very important" vs. all other answers

Table 6: Gender differences in the attitudes towards sexual relationships by presence of a steady friendship and/or sexual experience (coitus)("very important" answers in percent)

	With steady partner			With sexual experience			With partner and sex. experience		
	Males (N=41)	Females (N=72)	p	Males (N=57)	Females (N=61)	p	Males (N=24)	Females (N=43)	p
Good looks	7	3	n.s.	13	3	n.s.	16	6	n.s.
Common interests	28	18	n.s.	28	19	n.s.	29	21	n.s.
Being in love	54	58	n.s.	47	53	n.s.	50	53	n.s.
Lovee	69	81	n.s.	59	77	<.05	64	78	n.s.
Trust&understand.	85	89	n.s.	79	90	<.10	83	91	n.s.
Sexual fidelity	56	83	<.00	46	75	<.00	67	88	<.05
Tenderness & con.	66	87	<.01	55	93	<.00	54	93	<.00
Sex.compatibility	20	33	n.s.	20	35	<.10	17	33	n.s.

Table 7: Gender differences in communicating about sexual issues (frequencies in percent)

	Males	Females	p
In the family (N=333):			
Sexually informed (completely)	44	56	<.05
Talk about sex. relationships (frequently)	10	15	n.s.
Talk about Aids with mother (frequently)*	11	16	<.10
Talk about Aids with father (frequently)*	8	7	n.s.
With boyfriend or girlfriend (N=112):			
Talk about sexual problems (frequently)	37	51	n.s.
With a new sexual partner (N=117):			
Talk about contraceptives (yes)	86	97	<.05
Talk about Aids prevention (most certainly)	26	52	<.01
Talking about Aids with peers (N=333):			
With same-sex friend (frequently)*	17	35	<.000
With same-sex classmate (frequently)*	9	16	<.005
With opposite-sex friend (frequently)*	14	25	<.05
With opposite-sex classmate (frequently)*	3	6	<.05

* Changing number of subjects. Adolescents without mother, father, same- or opposite-sex friends or classmates were excluded from these analyses